

SCAN

Election

Asks:

2026

the future is art

**Classrooms to communities:
Secure the future of
Scotland's creative heart**

SCOTTISH
CONTEMPORARY
ART
NETWORK

Election

Contemporary visual art has the power to transform lives and open minds - and we need it now more than ever. Art is a vital part of Scottish lives: it opens us to new ideas and experiences, helps us explore complex histories and science, enhance our environments and foster stronger communities. With the right support and investment, we can strengthen the powerful contribution that art and artists make to Scotland's society, culture, and economy.

the future is art

1 Commit to above 1% national arts funding of overall Scottish Government budget

Why? Investment through secure, long-term funding for artists, cultural freelancers, grassroots and larger organisations will protect jobs and support talent retention. It will support pioneering work that speaks to the nation and is internationally recognised.



2 Support artists and arts workers to engage in social prescription and place-based work

—as part of their wider artistic practice and capacity-building. Why? While funding often prioritises tangible social outcomes, further investment is needed to enable artists to deliver this work effectively, safely, and sustainably within communities facing complex needs.

3 Value the visual arts sector as a key partner cross-portfolio to strengthen placemaking and community wealth building

Result? The visual arts' expertise and track-record on civic infrastructure, health and climate will have positive impact on the government's economic priorities, health outcomes and social interventions.

4 Re-prioritise and invest in the Expressive Arts within the Curriculum for Excellence

Impact? Nurture the next generation of Scotland's talent to ensure a strong net-zero future economy - whilst also changing young people's lives today! Participation in arts workshops and visiting exhibitions provide a wide range of health and wellbeing benefits for young people including reducing isolation.



5 Advocate and invest in workers' rights, fair pay and EDIA across the arts and academia

Result? Change and accountability is needed for professional working conditions to flourish and for our vital sector to stabilise. In turn, culture can bridge divisions and reflect our living history.



Scottish Contemporary Art Network supports:

A Culture Act for Scotland
by Culture Counts
Scotland Demands Better
by Poverty Alliance
Modern & Responsive Local Democracy
by Scottish Community Alliance

Freelance & Forgotten
by STUC, SAU and partners
Close the Gender Gap
by Equal Media and Culture Centre
Minimum Income Guarantee
by Poverty Alliance

Asks

Our members



in action

SCAN's member organisations present world-renowned contemporary visual art while also acting as vital civic anchors in communities across Scotland, from Shetland to Dumfries.

Together they form a diverse, active and evolving network that is open, mutually supportive, and committed to widening access to creativity. **Forgan Arts Centre (Newport, Fife)** takes an interconnected approach to community, art and nature. Its work ranges from supporting school refusers through an alternative schools programme to providing artist residencies for people with caring responsibilities, community art workshops and allotments.

Across Scotland, visual arts venues champion civic participation and building knowledge democracy in distinct and innovative ways. **Gaada (Burra Isle, Shetland)** is an artist-led social enterprise dedicated to building a world-class, accessible workshop, exhibition space and project hub. **Timespan (Helmsdale, Highlands)** a creative hub in an area defined as rural and remote, and affected by a lack of cultural services. Their programme interrogates local issues linking them to global conversations, bringing people together art, science, heritage and activism.

Spatial justice remains a pressing concern in many of Scotland's neighbourhoods. **Govanhill Baths (Glasgow)**, a grassroots multi-artform organisation, is addressing these needs through programmes promoting community ownership and stewardship of land and physical assets. Also, access to high-quality community health and wellbeing services is essential. **Art in Healthcare (Central Edinburgh)** have been running Room for Art since 2016 – a social prescribing project that provides high-quality visual art activities within health and social care settings. Across every metric – from health to social wellbeing – the visual arts are intrinsic to life in Scotland. This includes economic, Scotland's creative industries, including the visual arts, contribute more than £5.7 billion to the economy each year.

Founded in 2012, SCAN is the member-led support network for contemporary art in Scotland. Learn more about our 350+ members including artists, curators, cultural freelancers and arts organisations at www.sca-net.org.